

Match Report: Round 13

Kiama Rugby club have suffered yet another close loss, this time to premiership favourites Tech Waratahs at Saunders Oval this weekend. The late withdrawal of several players throughout the club did not affect the side with a number of quality players coming into the starting side at the last moment. Starved of possession for the first 25 minutes, Kiama held on valiantly in defence with both Andrew Saulter and Mitchell Brown pulling off memorable try saving tackles. Despite some ferocious tackling, Tech were the first to score with their winger going through untouched on the pack of several phases of attack. With very little possession Kiama continued to defend well in the first half however Tech crossed late in the piece to open up a 14 point lead. Despite only minutes left in the first half Kiama hit straight back through a Ryan Gunning try on the back of some solid forward work from Nathan Milthorpe and Steve Emmett. Down by only 10 at the break Kiama continued to turn possession over which allowed Tech to post another quick try. With 20 minutes to go Kiama began securing more possession and several breaks from Chris Weir and Brown at fullback resulted in a try to Michael Quinn. Kiama continued to dominate the final stanza as Quinn continued to make breaks at will. Mitchell Payne was at his scything best at half and when he chipped over the defence to allow Chris O'Born to score in the corner it looked as if Kiama could get the won however time got away from the visitors with Tech running out winners 25-17.

Second grade needed a solid victory to secure a top five spot but turned in their worst performance of the year in a disappointing 36-17 loss. Despite two early tries and holding the lead at the half time break Kiama looked lethargic throughout with fullback Michael McKinley and flanker Steve Mellor the only real standouts. Clint Paget continued his solid work at the scrum base however Kiama were out enthused and out played by a more switched on Tech side.

Thirds were up against it from the opening whistle with a number of injuries forcing coach Bryant to call on a couple of old hard heads to lead the way. Lenny Downes defied both logic and the doctor's orders to again strap on the boots and it was him and Aaron Reeves who were the early standouts for Kiama. Tech enjoyed the lion share of possession however Kiama created plenty of opportunities through the haves combination of Wilbur, Meizer and Barr. Despite a valiant effort Kiama went down 22-14.

Kiama is at home against Uni this weekend in what will be a big weekend for the club.